

Environment Information Sheet 8

Spill Response

Prevention is better than spill response

What's the issue with spills?

Spills of fuel, oil and / or chemicals pose a significant risk to groundwater at the airport and to local waterways, including the Georges River at Bankstown and the Nepean River at Camden.

Lack of and poor response to spills of fuels, oils and chemicals have, over the years, caused a number of contaminated sites on Sydney Metropolitan Airports.



Background

Fuel, oil, solvents, paint, adhesives, detergents, herbicides and pesticides, amongst other things, are all classified as Dangerous Goods or Hazardous Substances and are potentially dangerous or harmful to human health and the environment.

Poor storage, handling and disposal of these products not only create a risk to human health, it can also cause environmental (*soil, air and water*) pollution. The cost to clean up environmental pollution can be extremely expensive.

Prevention of spills is the first step in avoiding risk to human health and the environment.

An effective response and good management of the spills that do occur is vital if risks to human health and environmental pollution are to be avoided or minimised.

The law and what this means for you at a Sydney Metro Airport

The Airports Act 1996 makes it an offence for a person to directly *or indirectly* cause environmental pollution on an airport; significant penalties apply. The Airports (Environment Protection) Regulations 1997 require operators on airports to take all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent pollution and, if prevention is not possible, to minimise pollution.

The NSW Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000 and Regulations 2001 apply to the management of Dangerous Goods and Hazardous Substances (i.e. fuels, oils, solvents and other chemicals) and require people using and storing these products to make provision for;

- containment of spills and
- response to, and clean-up of, spills that occur.

Operators at Sydney Metropolitan Airports must therefore;

- Store fuel, oil, solvents and other liquid chemicals in a bunded area (*to capture any spills that may occur during storage*);
- Hold sufficient equipment to capture spills of fuel, oil, solvents and other liquid chemicals that may occur and know how to use that equipment; and
- Clean up spills of fuel, oil, solvents and other liquid chemicals as they occur.

Storage of Dangerous Goods and Hazardous Substances

Sydney Metro Airports Environment Information Sheet 5 – Dangerous Goods and Hazardous Substances provides information on your responsibility for handling, storage and disposal of chemical substances. It also includes ways to minimise the risk of uncontrolled spills of these substances.

Spill Response Equipment

All operators on airport are required to maintain sufficient response equipment to manage the type and size of spill that may occur at their premises, or in association with their work.

There is a variety of spill response equipment. The type and quantity of fuel, oil and chemicals you use and store at your facility will determine the type and quantity of spill response equipment you require.

Spill response material designed to target specific substances is commercially available. For example absorbent mats and booms designed to absorb hydrocarbons (fuel and oil) and allow water to pass through is available.

Spill Response Equipment can include:

- Absorbent Booms and Mats
- Absorbent Granules
- Stormwater Drain Caps
- Portable Bunds

In facilities where small amounts (<20L) of Dangerous Goods and Chemicals are used and stored, absorbent substances such as chemsorb or saw dust are sufficient for spill response.



Spill Response procedures

All operators at Sydney Metro Airports must take the following action in the event of a liquid chemical spill (i.e. spills of fuel, oil, solvents, PCBs, paint, adhesives, detergents, herbicides and pesticides or any other liquid chemical)

- Ensure the safety of people – Move people, and equipment if it is safe to do so, from the immediate vicinity of the spill.
- Assess the spill – Establish whether you have the right equipment, and sufficient quantities of it, to deal with the material spilt.
- Assess the location – Establish whether there are any drains nearby that need protection and determine whether any material has entered the drains.
- Control the spill – If it is safe to do so, stop further material from spilling by switching off taps, pumps or valves or righting a container.
- Contain the spill – Stop the spill from spreading by placing absorbent material in a down-slope position and by blocking stormwater inlets.
- Clean up the spill – Apply absorbent material, sweep up residue and place it in a container for disposal. If soil has been contaminated, dig up the affected soil and place it in a container for disposal.
- Dispose of contaminated spill response material or soil to an appropriately licensed waste facility. Retain a copy of the waste disposal certificates for your records.
- Record and report the spill to the Airport Environment Manager. Fuel and oil spills greater than 5 litres, spills involving toxic chemicals or spills that threaten drains and channels must be reported immediately to the Duty Operations Officer at 0419 294 432. All other spills may be reported monthly.

Remember safety comes first.

- Call the Duty Operations Officer (0419 294 432) immediately if you can't contain the spill, don't know what has been spilt, the spilt material has entered a stormwater drain or if the material spilt is toxic.
- Use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment when managing spilt material and let experts deal with toxic materials.

Spill Response Chart

A separate Spill Response Chart for you to print out and use in appropriate locations around your work place is appended to this Information Sheet.

Further Information

For further information on the law relating to the storage and use of Dangerous Goods and Hazardous substances refer to;

- WorkCover NSW - phone 13 10 50
- NSW Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000 (<http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/LawAndPolicy/Acts/default.htm> select the Act and follow the links)
- NSW Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2001 (<http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/LawAndPolicy/Regulations/default.htm> select the Regulation and follow the links)

For information in relation to the disposal of dangerous goods and hazardous substance containing materials refer to;

- Dept of Environment & Climate Change, (DECC) Environment Line - Phone 131 555
- DECC, Information Sheet 7 “Workshop – Containing, handling and disposing of oil and chemicals” and Information Sheet 6 “Hazardous Material and Waste.” (http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/sustainbus/2007203_ss_sheet7.pdf) (http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/sustainbus/200737_ft_sheet6.pdf)
- WorkCover NSW Dangerous Goods and Hazardous Substances Fact Sheet, Chemicals in the Workplace (http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/1DED7A08-227F-4670-A6D0-74CEA43CF6FB/0/chemicals_in_the_workplace_fact_sheet_1378.pdf)

For further information on Spill Response Equipment requirements refer to;

- WorkCover NSW Dangerous Goods Fact Sheet 6, Spill Containment for Packaged Dangerous Goods (http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/E94B7DF0-746F-42E3-9D79-2F111C5D180C/0/spillage_containment_packaged_dangerous_goods_fact_sheet_5216.pdf)

DISCLAIMER

The information provided in this sheet is of a general nature and may or may not apply or be appropriate to your particular circumstances. It is not legal advice nor is it a substitute for obtaining legal or other professional advice from a qualified person. It is the responsibility of every tenant and occupier of land on the Airport to comply with the Airports Act, all airport related Regulations, and all other laws relating to occupying land at the Airport and the conduct of a business on that land. To understand your obligations you should make your own inquiries and consult a professional or other qualified advisor regarding your particular circumstances and situation.

SPILL RESPONSE

Safety First

Move people, and equipment if it is safe to do so, from the immediate vicinity of the spill

Assess

Is the spill greater than 50L?

Is assistance required?

Has any of the material spilled entered a stormwater drain?

Do you need more spill response equipment?

Yes - Call Duty Operations Officer
0419-294-432

Control

Take action to stop further material spilling (Only if it is safe to do so).

Contain

Take action to stop the spill from spreading.

Clean Up

Apply absorbent material to absorb the spill, sweep up residue and place in container for disposal.
Remove oil and fuel contaminated soil and place in container for disposal.

Dispose

Contaminated soil and spill response material must be disposed to an appropriately licensed waste disposal facility.

Notify

Record and report all spills of any size to the Airport Environment Manager
(Use the Incident Notification Form)